

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 1995 SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET AND RESCISSIONS OF AUTHORITY REQUEST ACT AND PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 1996 BUDGET REQUEST ACT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 104-89)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALKER) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 446 of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act, I am transmitting the District of Columbia's Proposed FY 1995 Second Supplemental Budget and Rescissions of Authority Request Act and the Proposed FY 1996 Budget Request Act.

The Proposed FY 1996 Budget has not been reviewed or approved by the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority, created by Public Law 104-8, the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Act of 1995 (the "Act"). It will be subject to such review and approval pursuant to section 208 of the Act.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, June 29, 1995.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, Democratic leader:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER,
Washington, DC, May 11, 1995.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to Section 211(B)(f), Public Law 101-515 as amended by Section 260001, Public Law 103-322, I hereby appoint the following individual representing law enforcement officers to the National Commission to Support Law Enforcement: Mr. Darryl Jones of Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

Yours very truly,

RICHARD A. GEPHARDT.

EXTENDING AUTHORITIES UNDER THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE FACILITATION ACT OF 1994

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill—S. 962—to extend authorities under the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act of 1994 until August 15, 1995, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the right to object, and I do not intend to object, but I do want to state some concerns I have about the process surrounding the consideration of the bill.

This is the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act. It expires June 30, 1995, which is this Friday. The bill before us, S. 962, extends the law only for another 45 days, until August 15.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is critical to the Middle East peace process. If the act is allowed to expire, all funds for direct assistance to the Palestinian authority and the West Bank and Gaza will be cut off. The United States will not be able to contribute to international efforts to benefit the Palestinian authority, and representatives of the Palestinian authority or related entities will not be able to maintain an office in the United States. So, engaging in diplomatic activities here would be virtually impossible.

In short, allowing this law to expire could bring down the peace process at a time of intense Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

Given the fragile, but nonetheless positive, nature of ongoing discussion between the Israelis and Palestinians, I have concern that we want to add to the instabilities of the region by extending this law only until August 15. By doing so, we are sending mixed signals to the parties, raising doubts about our resolve in the peace process. We create artificial tensions for a region that has plenty of real tensions. We do so for reasons that have nothing to do with Palestinians or Israelis.

We want the Palestinians to do more to control violence. We have concerns about some actions of the Palestinian authority. But we have an ongoing process to monitor Palestinian behavior without imposing unnecessary time pressures on both sides.

I think it is a mistake not to authorize a longer extension at this time.

I will not object to the bill, but I do hope that when we have to return to the floor later this summer to extend this law again, we do so for a longer period of time.

We should send a signal of strong support for the Middle East peace process, not the opposite. The Middle East peace process is hard enough. We in the Congress should not make it harder.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HAMILTON. Further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, S. 962 is a temporary extension of the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act, which is scheduled to expire at the end of this week unless congressional authority is extended.

Because we will conference with the Senate on a more substantive Middle East Peace Facilitation Act prior to

the summer recess, this legislation extends the Act until August 15, 1995. In essence, this is a 45-day extension.

I therefore urge positive consideration of this legislation under my unanimous consent request.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 962

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SEC. 1. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITIES.

Section 583 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (Public Law 103-236) is amended by striking "July 1, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "August 15, 1995".

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CALLING UPON THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO RELEASE U.S. CITIZEN, HARRY WU

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on International Relations be discharged from further consideration of the resolution—House Resolution 178—calling upon the People's Republic of China to release U.S. citizen Harry Wu unconditionally and to provide for an accounting of his arrest and detention, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I do not intend to object. I simply want to commend the authors of the resolution for their excellent work in bringing this measure before the House in a timely fashion.

House Resolution 178 condemns the arbitrary detention of Mr. Harry Wu by the Chinese.

Mr. Wu is a dedicated human rights activist. He is highly respected by Members, many Members of this House. I support the resolution, and I call upon the Chinese Government to release Mr. Wu.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HAMILTON. Further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Connecticut.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I just want to join my colleagues and commend the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SMITH], the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. WOLF] and so many others, particularly the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI], for the work they have done on this issue.